Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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CONFIDENTIAL USUN 3433

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, TU, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK/TURKISH DISPUTE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

REF: USUN 3416

1. SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION (USUN 3416) WITHOUT AMENDMENTS BY CONSENSUS AT 12:45 PM AUGUST 25. BEFORE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED, US, UK, FRANCE, ITALY, ROMANIA, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, USSR, CHINA AND LIBYA SPOKE. HIGHLIGHTS OF REMARKS IN SEPTEL. PAKISTAN AND LIBYA INDICATED IN THEIR STATEMENTS THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO ABSTAIN IF VOTING TOOK PLACE. PAKISTAN PERMREP AKHUND COMMENTED THAT PAKISTAN TAKES EXCEPTION TO OPERATIVE PARA 4 AND WHILE RESERVING ITS POSITION ON THE RESOLUTION IT WOULD ACCEPT ADOPTION BY CONSENSUS. PRESIDENT OF SC ABE (JAPAN) PROPOSED ADOPTION BY CONSENSUS AT SC MEETING AFTER CAUCUSING ALL SC MEMBERS WHO INDICATED THEIR AGREEMENT.

2. AFTER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION, DELEGATIONS OF BENIN SWEDEN, AND TANZANIA SPOKE FOLLOWED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS OF TURKEY AND GREECE. FM CAGLAYANGIL STATED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT TURKEY STILL HELD THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR

RESOLUTION AND THAT TURKEY WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TENSIONS IN THE AREA. AFTER REMARKING THAT GREECE'S UNILATERAL APPLICATION TO THE ICJ WAS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE ADOPTED RESOLUTION, CAGLAYANGIL SAID THAT TURKEY DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE ICJ ACTION IN THIS INSTANCE AS HAVING BINDING NATURE ON TURKEY. GREEK FM BITSIOS SPOKE BRIEFLY OF GREECE'S APPRECIATION TO SC MEMBERS WHO HAD WORKED FOR RESOLUTION WHICH COULD BE USEFUL IN BRINGING ABOUT REDUCTION OF TENSION.

- 3. DURING DISCUSSION IN SC CHAMBER AFTER MEETING WAS ADJOURNED, GREEK AND TURKISH DELEGATIONS TOLD US THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL WOULD MEET TODAY, SOON AFTER THE SC MEETING. TURKISH DELEGATION MEMBER INDICATED TURKS HOPED AT THIS MEETING TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS ON SUBSTANCE.
- 4. COMMENT: SUDDEN SHIFT FROM RESOLUTION TO CONSENSUS IS TYPICAL OF FLUIDITY OF SC PROCEEDINGS. IT OCCURRED IN LAST FEW MINUTES BEFORE WE SAT DOWN TO FORMAL MEETING AND APPARENTLY RESULTED FROM TURKISH DECISION TO GO CONSENSUS ROUTE RATHER THAN HAVE WEAKNESS OF THEIR POSITION EXPOSED THROUGH 12 OR 13 FAVORABLE VOTES FOR RESOLUTION AND TWO ABSTENTIONS, RATHER THAN NEGATIVE VOTES FROM THEIR ISLAMIC FRIENDS ON THE COUNCIL. IT CAN ALSO BE SAID THAT HABIB SEEDING OF SATURDAY BORE FRUIT TODAY.
- 5. END RESULT WAS THAT TURKS COVERED THEIR EMBARRASSMENT AND EARNED KUDOS THROUGH STATESMAN-LIKE ACCEPTANCE OF COUNCIL DECISION. GREEKS FOR THEIR PART WERE JUBILANT OVER HAVING ACHIEVED A RESOLUTION WHICH THEY CAN PRESENT AT HOME AS HAVING BEEN UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED. GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IN COUNCIL AT END OF SESSION WAS THAT SC HAD SHOWN IT COULD ACT TO EASE TENSION IN A CRITICAL AREA AND SET STAGE FOR DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN THE PARTIES. IN SUM, EVERYONE WENT AWAY HAPPY AND, AS VINCI (ITALY) OBSERVED, THE WEST HAD NOT BEEN SO HIGHLY PRAISED IN SC IN MANY A LONG DAY -- THROUGH TRIBUTES BY NUMEROUS SPEAKERS TO THE CO-SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUCCESSFUL TWO-WEEK EFFORT. CONFIDENTIAL

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AMONG OUR FOUR, THERE WAS SATISFACTION OVER THE FACT OF NATO SOLIDARITY IN HANDLING A DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO NATO ALLIES. END COMMENT.
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